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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

November 20, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: Backup Photographic Processing Capability

25X1 Several months ago the Department of Defense announced the closing of Westover Air Force Base with the exception of a few tenant units. In your letter, "National Reconnaissance Program" [redacted] dated August 9, 1973), you asked that we examine the savings which would result from closing the Air Force Special Projects Production Facility (AFSPPF) presently operating as a Westover tenant.

The AFSPPF could continue as an operational unit at Westover; however, this would be less than practical without the full support normally provided by an active base. Therefore, it is my desire to phase out the AFSPPF at Westover and, in so doing, to maintain a backup to the Eastman Kodak photographic processing capability. Thus, I have implemented certain alternate, cost saving means by which these objectives can be met.

I have directed that the primary processing capability at the Eastman Kodak Company be contractually increased to accomplish the majority of the duplicate film processing currently performed by the AFSPPF. In addition, I have approved augmenting the capability of the 544th ARTW at Headquarters SAC, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska. The 544th ARTW was selected because it is close to a major user of photographic intelligence, presently works with satellite reconnaissance projects, and represents an existing capability.

25X1 Activation of the backup capability will require an increase in the physical plant at the 544th ARTW which is estimated to take approximately two and one-half years to complete. At that time, the activities of the AFSPPF will be completely dissolved. In the interim, we will be phasing down the AFSPPF production activity as the Eastman Kodak Company increases their capability.

NRO and USAF review(s) completed.

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The pre and post flight evaluation and analysis functions of the AFSPPF will be continued throughout the transfer of these activities and their corresponding manpower spaces. Research and development tasks selected for continuation will be handled through the NRO.

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From an NRP funding standpoint, we anticipated these developments in the July ExCom, and thus reduced our estimates as follows:

	<u>FY-74</u>	<u>FY-75</u>	<u>FY-76</u>	<u>FY-77</u>	<u>FY-78</u>	<u>FY-79</u>	<u>Total</u>	25X1
Nov 72 ExCom								
Jul 73 ExCom								
Reduction								

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Refinements of the costs indicate that the present approach would [redacted] in FY 76. This will be included in the November ExCom estimates. In addition, we are expecting sizeable savings in Air Force manpower and O&M support outside the NRP accounts.

I am confident that these actions will permit the NRO to continue to fulfill its photographic reproduction requirements and to do so at a reduced cost.

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John L. McLucas

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